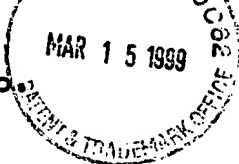


GAU 3744 #5

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE


Inventor : Stephen B. Maguire
Application No. : 09/157,238
Filed : 18 September 1998
Group Art Unit : 3744
Title : LOW PRESSURE DRYER

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Group 3700

Suite 720
1601 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2307
(215) 563-4100 (telephone)
(215) 563-4044 (facsimile)
Our File: 1098-98

Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97(b)(3) and 1.98

Dear Sir:

This is an information disclosure statement submitted under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97(b)(3) and 1.98 in connection with the above-referenced pending U.S. patent application.

This information disclosure statement is timely in that it is being submitted prior to the mailing date of a first official action on the merits of this application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, this information disclosure statement and the materials submitted herewith should be considered by the examiner in the course of examination of this application on its merits.

Submitted herewith please find copies of thirty (30) United States patents, fourteen (14) foreign patent publications, five (5) sheets of photocopies of photographs and copies of seventeen (17) different pieces of promotional literature in the nature of advertisements, brochures, technical articles, flyers, catalogs and the like, all relating to blending equipment of the general type to which this invention pertains.

All of these materials are listed on three sheets of Form PTO-1449, which is incorporated herein by reference and satisfies the requirement for a list of all of the patents, publications and other information submitted for consideration under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(1).

Legible copies of all of these patents, the photographs and the promotional materials are also enclosed herewith in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2).

With the exception of the French Patent Publication No. 2,517,087, German Patent Publication No. DE 35 41 532 A1, French Patent Publication No. 2,235,775 and French Patent Publication No. 2,109,840 and the four page brochure entitled "Conair Franklin Autocolor Y Mezclador", all of the materials submitted herewith are in the English language; no concise explanation of the relevance of these materials is required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3).

French patent publication 2,507,087 appears to disclose granular material mixing and dispensing apparatus.

German patent publication DE 3,541,532 A1 appears to disclose granular material mixing and conveying apparatus.

French Patent Publication No. 2,235,775 appears to disclose equipment for drying granular material of the type to which the invention which is the subject of the instant invention generally pertains.

French Patent Publication No. 2,109,840 appears to disclose equipment for processing granular plastic material of the general type to which the instant invention pertains.

Concerning the relevance of the four page brochure entitled "Conair Franklin Autocolor Y Mezclador" and printed in Italian, this brochure discloses blending equipment for solid granular material of the general type to which the invention pertains.

No English language translations of these foreign references are within the possession, custody or control of applicant or applicant's attorneys nor are any such English language translations readily available to applicant or applicant's attorneys in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(c).

We respectfully request consideration of the materials submitted herewith in connection with an examination on the merits of all of the claims pending in this United States patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles N. Quinn
Reg. No. 27,223
Attorney for Applicant

CNQ:kas
Enclosures

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 C.F.R. §1.8:

I hereby certify that the foregoing Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 and the above-cited references are being deposited with the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below

Dated: 12 March 1999


Charles N. Quinn